

Pending

*Robert F. Bennett*

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To protect the democratic process and the right of the people of the District of Columbia to define marriage.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—111th Cong., 2d Sess.

H. R. 4872

AMENDMENT NO. 3568

By Bennett

To H.R. 4872

Re \_\_\_\_\_ and

2  
Page(s)

GPO: 2008 45-603 (mae)

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BENNETT, to the amendment (No. \_\_\_\_\_) proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

*Mr. Wicker,  
Mr. Brownback,  
Mr. Hatch,  
Mr. Roberts,  
Mr. Inhofe, and  
Mr. Cornyn*

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

2 SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT OF

3 COLUMBIA TO DEFINE MARRIAGE.

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) a broad coalition of residents of the District

6 of Columbia petitioned for an initiative in accord-

7 ance with the District of Columbia Home Rule Act

8 to establish that “only marriage between a man and

1 a woman is valid or recognized in the District of Co-  
2 lumbia”;

3 (2) this petition anticipated the Council of the  
4 District of Columbia’s passage of an Act legalizing  
5 same-sex marriage;

6 (3) the unelected District of Columbia Board of  
7 Elections and Ethics and the unelected District of  
8 Columbia Superior Court thwarted the residents’ ini-  
9 tiative effort to define marriage democratically, hold-  
10 ing that the initiative amounted to discrimination  
11 prohibited by the District of Columbia Human  
12 Rights Act; and

13 (4) the definition of marriage affects every per-  
14 son and should be debated openly and democrat-  
15 ically.

16 (b) REFERENDUM OR INITIATIVE REQUIREMENT.—  
17 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including the  
18 District of Columbia Human Rights Act, the government  
19 of the District of Columbia shall immediately suspend the  
20 issuance of marriage licenses to any couple of the same  
21 sex until the people of the District of Columbia have the  
22 opportunity to hold a referendum or initiative on the ques-  
23 tion of whether the District of Columbia should issue  
24 same-sex marriage licenses.